

April 8, 2021, is designated as Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Between 1933 and 1945, the German government, led by Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party violently tried to remove diversity from Germany and Europe. They persecuted and murdered 6 million European Jews and 5 million other people, including; Jehovah's Witnesses, resisters, Roma (gypsies), homosexuals, priests and pastors (Protestant and Catholic), people with disabilities, and others.

American and Allied soldiers were some of the first outsiders to witness the concentration camps' horrors where prisoners were sent to die. Their documentation provided evidence to the world about atrocities committed by the Nazi regime.

As the generation of Holocaust survivors dwindles, it is up to us to continue telling the story and learning the lessons so that it does not happen again. We must step and speak when we see another person being mistreated because of who they are (race, religion, sexual orientation, etc.) or what they believe. Staying silent allows for the oppressor to believe he/she is in the right.

"For the dead and the living, we must bear witness. Not only are we responsible for the memories of the dead, we are responsible for what we do with those memories."

-Eli Wiesel (Holocaust Survivor)

#### Additional Resources

[United States Holocaust Memorial Museum \(ushmm.org\)](https://ushmm.org)

[American Jewish Historical Society | \(ajhs.org\)](https://ajhs.org)